REMARKS

The foregoing change to the specification is deemed to obviate the drawing objection.

The rejections of Claims 1-3 and 9-11 as being unpatentable over Umeda et al., in view of Murakami et al., and Mills and of Claims 4 and 12 as being unpatentable over Umeda et al., in view of Murakami et al., and Mills and further in view of Richter et al., both under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), are traversed. Reconsideration of each of these rejections requested.

Applicants submit that the combination of Umeda et al., and Murakami et al., as well as with Mills fails to set forth a prima facie case of obviousness. In particular, the Umeda et al., patent describes nothing more than what Applicants have described as to the prior art at page 1, line 1, to page 3, line 20 of this specification. Among other things, the ends of the conductor segments have to be bonded by, for example, welding (as seen in Fig. 5). This results in difficult assembly and possible damage to the conductor insulation, not to mention that the joined parts are often melted and short-circuited.

The Murakami et al., assembly is similarly different from both the claimed invention and, for that matter, the Umeda et al., alternator. The Murakami et al., assembly adds nothing to the description of the prior art described by Applicants at page 3, line 21 to page 4, line 16, of their specification. In forming

the stator core, Murakami et al., start with the flat plate core shown in Fig. 7(A) and (B), which is then assembled by rolling, which can also cause damage.

The Mills coil insertion technique involves a method which is substantially different from that of the present invention and also the above-discussed prior art. Only impermissible hindsight would dictate a different conclusion. The windings 5 in Mills are not shaped in a form, as shown in Figs. 2, 4, 5-7 and 10 of the present application, to permit the turns of the windings to be pressed in an axial direction of the stator core and/or outwardly for easy insertion in the slots. Moreover, the Office Action incorrectly states that the wires are wound in rings around a cylindrical member (bobbin 1). But, in fact, the wires are not wound around the bobbin 1 in a normal assembled state but around shaft 9. The bobbin 1 is removed from the stator core after the winding 5 has been assembled.

Accordingly, early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056208.53982US).

Respectfully submitted,

October 20, 2006

James F. McKeown / Richard R. Diefendorf
Registration No. 25,406 / 32,390

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
JFM:pjc
dn#2877612